



July 25, 2005

“The agreement [of the “gang of 14”], if followed in good faith, will make filibusters of judicial nominees in the future, including Supreme Court nominees, almost impossible.”
– **Senator Bill Frist, M.D., 5/24/05**

Members Of Senate’s “Gang Of 14” Point Toward Smooth Confirmation Of Supreme Court Nominee John Roberts

THE DEMOCRATS

Sen. Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) On The Nomination Of John Roberts: “A Wise Choice.”

“Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., said Bush had ‘made a wise choice.’ Asked whether a filibuster was likely, Nelson said: ‘I think it’s fair to say I don’t see anything coming out right now.’”
(Jesse J. Holland, “Roberts Likely Won’t Face Filibuster,” *Associated Press*, 7/21/05)

Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) Called Roberts A “Credible Nominee” With A Record That Should Not Be “Described As Extremist.”

LIEBERMAN: “[I] think there was also a consensus ... that this is a credible nominee, and not one, as far as we know now, that has a record that in any sense can be described as extremist.” (Sen. Joe Lieberman, as quoted in Charles Babington, “Key Lawmakers Say They See No Need For Filibuster,” *Washingtonpost.com*, Accessed 7/21/05)

Sen. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) Said That Roberts’ Confirmation Will Probably Be A Smooth Process.

“Another group member, Sen. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.), said of Roberts’ selection: ‘My sense is, so far, so good. The White House did a good job of reaching out to members on both sides of the aisle. It probably means a smooth confirmation process.’”

(Charles Babington, “Key Lawmakers Say They See No Need For Filibuster,” *Washingtonpost.com*, Accessed 7/21/05)

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) Said He Is “Inclined To Support A President’s Nominee” To The Supreme Court.

INOUE: “As a general rule, I am inclined to support a President’s nominee – but that does not mean I will be a rubber stamp.” (Sen. Daniel Inouye, Press Release, 7/19/05)

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) Believes That “First Indications Are Good” For Roberts’ Confirmation Process.

LANDRIEU: “Well, what I can say at this time is that the process has begun smoothly. And that’s what many of us in our group and many senators were hoping for, a nominee that could help unite the country. . . . The first indications are good.” (CNN’s “Inside Politics,” 7/21/05)

THE REPUBLICANS

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) Expressed Strong Support For Roberts' Nomination And Said He Looked Forward To A "Swift Up-Or-Down Vote."

McCain: "I am pleased that the President has chosen Judge John Roberts as his nominee to the Supreme Court. Judge Roberts would bring a wealth of experience to the nation's highest bench having served as an attorney in private practice, as an advisor and Deputy Solicitor General at the Department of Justice and as a federal appeals court judge. I look forward to a smooth confirmation process and a swift up-or-down vote for Judge Roberts." (Sen. John McCain, Press Release, "Senator McCain Expresses Support For Supreme Court Nominee Judge John Roberts," 7/19/05)

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) Said Roberts Is "Exactly What The Country Needs" And Said He Will Serve The Country Well.

GRAHAM: "I think he's exactly what the country needs and what the president was looking for – a solid conservative who is very mainstream and well respected. ... He sent us a very good man who will serve this country well and I expect he'll be confirmed." (Fox News' "On The Record," 7/19/05)

➤ **Sen. Graham Also Called Roberts "One Of The Best Legal Minds Of His Generation."**

(Sen. Lindsey Graham, Press Release, 7/19/05)

Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio) Indicated His Belief That Roberts Is A "Very Well Qualified Nominee."

"I want to commend the President for his consultation with the Senate, and for the obvious care he took in deciding upon this very important nomination. My initial reaction is that the President is sending a very well qualified nominee to the Senate for its consideration." (Sen. Mike DeWine, Press Release, "Statement From Senator DeWine Regarding President Bush's Nomination Of John G. Roberts To The Supreme Court," 7/19/05)

Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) Called The Nomination "A Good Choice." "It's a good choice," said Sen. John Warner, R-Va., a member of the powerful 'Gang of 14' that recently prevented a Senate meltdown over judicial filibusters." (Jesse J. Holland, "Roberts Pick Draws Praise From Senate Republicans, A Few Democrats," *Associated Press*, 7/19/05)

Sen. Susan Collins (D-Maine) On The Selection Of John Roberts: "A Really Good Choice."

COLLINS: "[I]t's premature for the Democrats to be making a final judgment -- or for any of us to be making a final judgment, until Judge Roberts' hearings are finished. We do have a process. I want to honor that process, but I see absolutely no grounds for a filibuster at this point. I think the president's made a really good choice." (CNN's "Lou Dobbs Tonight," 7/21/05)